GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1316
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2005
CLOSURE OF FOOD TEA STALLS AT DELHI STATION
Chakraborty Shri Ajay

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that several small food/tea stalls awarded to the people belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes were closed down by the railway authorities at Delhi Junction Railway Station following the introduction of New Catering Policy even before the expiry of their scheduled licensed period;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether similar order was issued in Chandigarh region which was withdrawn after the intervention of the Hon`ble Chandigarh High Court and railway authorities allowed the vendors to continue; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to save Delhi Junction vendors who have been rendered in a helpless situation by the whimsical acts of railway officials?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) & (b): Licence fee for all the catering contractors of static units was revised &om 5% So 12% w.e.f. 01.07.1999. Majority of the contractors filed suits in different courts against the enhancement of the licence fee. Kon`ble Supreme Court of India passed an order on 29.Q3.20C5 in favour of Railways directing the licensees to pay the arrears to the Railways tailing which Railway Administration will be at liberty to terminate their contracts in accordance with the law. Therefore, in order to implement the Court`s decision 6 units were closed out of which orÂ»e unit belongs to scheduled Caste Category at Delhi Junction.

(c) &. (d): Yes, Sir. Ninety Seven catering contracts on Firozepur Division were closed for not paying the arrear of licence fee. These units were reopened as the catering/Vending Association Firozepur Division filed a contempt petition in Punjab & Haryana High Court, Chandigarh for violating the Hon`ble courts order dated 05.10.2000, which had restrained Railways to collect the enhanced licence fee.At present the case is sub-judice.